

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES ARMY FORCES, PACIFIC
OFFICE OF THE THEATER JUDGE ADVOCATE
WAR CRIMES BRANCH

APC 500
2 November 1945

MEMORANDUM TO: Prosecution Section (Report #96)

THRU : Executive Officer, War Crimes Branch

SUBJECT : Massacre of Three Hundred Civilians of Cuenca, Batangas,
P. I.

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II. SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE:

This investigation covers the murder of more than three hundred civilian Filipino men, women, and children of various barrios in Cuenca, Batangas, P. I., during February and March 1945. The official list of those massacred was prepared by the acting mayor of Cuenca at the request of the governor of Batangas Province (R 1; Ex. A). Typical of the methods by which these murders were committed by the Japanese are the following examples:

About 1930 hours on 3 February 1945, the Japanese herded twenty-one male civilians into a cave near the barrio of Tanque, ordered them out one at a time, and tied them together, with their hands behind their backs. They were then taken to an open field and in groups of three were led to the edge of a ravine, where they were shot and bayoneted and then rolled into the ravine. The Japanese then examined the bodies and any that showed signs of life were again bayoneted. Only two of the twenty-one escaped (R 7, 8, 11).

On 6 February 1945, approximately one hundred and seventy-five civilian Filipino men, women and children were assembled in the house of Graciano CASTILLO in the barrio of Mambug. The Japanese took the men out in groups of five and none of them were seen again. Later they took three women out but they were returned shortly stating that the grave was not yet finished. One woman and her child escaped from the house during darkness, but the rest of the one hundred and seventy-five were never seen again (R 14, 15). Screams and groans were heard from the CASTILLO house and the next day the house was silent (R 4).

On 13 February 1945, approximately fifty-two civilian Filipinos including two women were crowded under a house in the sitio of San Juan by the Japanese. One group of thirty was taken to Mateo PALMA'S house nearby and forced to admit they were guerrillas. They were then tied to trees and the posts of the house. At about 1900 hours they were taken in groups of three to the edge of a well, their hands tied behind their backs, and made to step up singly to the well. Each victim was held by one Japanese while three others bayoneted him. The victims were then thrown into the well. Only two escaped out of this group and one of them was wounded (R 18, 19, 21, 22). The remaining twenty civilians were marched to another house near a well and never seen again and it is believed they suffered the same fate (R 18).

On 19 February 1945, eleven men, women and children of Elisa MAGPANTAY'S family were bayoneted to death in the back yard of their home in the barrio of San Felipe by Japanese soldiers (R 24). The same night, the mother and nephew of Agustin LUNAR were bayoneted to death in their home in San Felipe by Japanese soldiers and their house burned (R 27). On 20 February 1945, nine men, women and children of another family in San Felipe were bayoneted to death by the Japanese (R 30) and on the same evening eight men, women and children of still another family were similarly murdered by the Japanese and the house burned (R 33).

Early in March 1945, Ireneo HOCENA was wounded with bayonets on a trail near Poblacion by the Japanese for no apparent reason (R 36).

On 7 March 1945, eighteen male civilian Filipinos were brought to the barrio of Dita by the Japanese. Five young men were taken from the group and the other thirteen were given passes to return to their homes. En route home they were arrested by Japanese sentries, marched to a ravine and their hands tied behind their backs. They were then bayoneted by the Japanese and the bodies thrown into the ravine. Eleven were never seen again and only two escaped (R 4, 39, 40; Ex. H, I).

On 11 March 1945, nineteen civilian Filipino men, women and children were taken by the Japanese from a shelter in the barrio of Sablay and imprisoned in a tunnel for about a week. On 19 March the tunnel was opened and the civilians were ordered out in small groups. As they left the tunnel the Japanese bayoneted and shot them. Only about six of the victims escaped (R 42, 43, 48; Ex. B, C, D, E). One little girl about five years old was bayoneted through the neck as she ran from the tunnel and was lifted from the ground while impaled on the bayonet (R 45).

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其後日本人、三人、婦人ヨリ出シテ、問モテ、未ダ屋敷を出
来テ居ルト云テ来リ。一婦人、其、子供が夜陰ニ啼キ、一、家
カラ逃ゲ出シテ、然シ、百七十五人、係、着、二度、見、
(R 十四十五) 叫ビテ、申キ事ガキ、名、CASTILLO、家、
聞キ、分、理、目、其、家、静、カ、ヘ、テ、井、ノ、(R 四)

一九四五年、昭和二十年、二月十九日、二人、婦人、金、約、五、三、名、
アリ、市、民、ガ、サ、マ、San Juan、慶、陽、家、心、家、下、果、
人、ヨリ、押、込、タ、リ、タ、三、十、人、一、組、ガ、近、所、マ、テ、Mateo PALMA、
家、ニ、テ、行、カ、レ、被、害、ガ、テ、テ、テ、テ、強、制、的、ニ、白、状、セ、タ、リ、タ、被、害、人、
カ、ラ、水、ヤ、リ、家、粒、縛、リ、タ、リ、タ、十九時頃、波、耳、ハ、両、手、北、向、後、
ニ、バ、ラ、セ、テ、三、人、一、組、ガ、井、ノ、端、ニ、テ、行、カ、リ、タ、一、人、一、人、井、ノ、端、
ニ、ヨ、リ、タ、リ、タ、犠、牲、者、一、人、日、本、人、ヨリ、テ、オ、キ、テ、オ、キ、テ、他、三、人、日、本、
人、ガ、實、ニ、銃、剣、ヲ、刺、殺、シ、被、害、者、達、其、後、井、ノ、端、ニ、投、込、タ、リ、タ、
群、中、カ、ラ、三、人、ガ、逃、ゲ、出、シ、タ、リ、タ、一、人、一、人、傷、ヲ、負、テ、タ、リ、タ、
(R 十八、十九、二十、二十一) 残、リ、テ、人、市、民、ガ、心、井、ノ、端、他、家、
行、進、セ、タ、リ、タ、ガ、二、度、見、テ、タ、リ、タ、被、害、者、同、ニ、運、命、ニ、遭、
テ、タ、リ、タ、思、ハ、レ、タ、(R 十八)

一九四五年、昭和二十年、二月十九日、二人、婦人、金、約、五、三、名、
MAGRANTAY、男、女、子、供、ヨリ、成、ル、十、二、人、家、族、者、ハ、サ、マ、
San Felipe、部、落、被、害、家、家、族、ヲ、日、本、兵、隊、ヨリ、テ、銃、剣、
ヲ、刺、殺、セ、タ、リ、タ、(報、告、ニ、テ、) 同、夜、下、リ、タ、リ、タ、Aguatin LUNAR、
母、及、心、婦、日、本、兵、隊、ヨリ、テ、^{SAN FELIPE}被、害、家、家、族、ヲ、刺、殺、
シ、タ、リ、タ、被、害、家、家、族、ヲ、(R 二十三) 一九四五年、昭和二十年、
二月十九日、^{SAN FELIPE}被、害、家、家、族、男、女、及、子、供、ヨリ、成、ル、九、人、日、本、
人、ヨリ、テ、銃、剣、ヲ、刺、殺、セ、タ、リ、タ、(R 三十七) 夜、捕、獲、家、族、男、女、及、子、
供、

No. 2

No. 3

刺方、夕儘ず地盤カウ元々上ノミナリナリ。(天四十五)